

Wolf
Woolsey

Wu
Wynn

Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—29

Ackerman
Baird
Cardoza
Clyburn
DeGette
Emerson
Eshoo
Etheridge
Feeney
Gerlach

Granger
Gutierrez
Hinchey
Holt
Kirk
LoBiondo
Lynch
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Ney

Payne
Sabo
Snyder
Stearns
Stupak
Taylor (NC)
Watson
Wexler
Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1924

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent today from this Chamber. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 20, 21 and 22.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I offer a resolution (H.R. 68), and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 68

Resolved, That the following Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on the Budget: Mr. Simpson to rank after Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

PELL GRANT FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of a part of President Bush's budget that receives no fanfare or publicity, and that is Pell grants. Pell grants are dollars that we give to children from low- and moderate-income families to help them go to college. I personally would not have been able to go to college without Pell grants, and I serve as chairman of the Congressional Pell Grant Caucus.

When I was elected to Congress in 2000, I made increasing Pell grant funding my top priority, and with this budget, President Bush has done his part, too.

Now, I have heard some people complain that maybe the President and Congress are not doing enough to increase Pell grants, so I am here today to provide a little straight talk regarding Pell grant funding.

Let us begin by comparing funding situations in 2000 with the President's current budget proposal. As Members can see, we have increased Pell grant funding overall by 137 percent since the year 2000 from \$7.6 billion to \$18 billion. We have also increased the individual awards from \$3,300 to \$4,150 with an extra \$1,000 for those smart kids who qualify under the Pell Grant Plus Program by taking rigorous courses. And we also have an additional 1.6 million students who are now eligible for Pell grants, an increase of 41 percent.

Some say that maybe we should be doing even more than this. Well, let us compare the history. Over the past 20 years, we have had Pell grants, demonstrated here based on the Democratic-controlled Congress in yellow from 1986 to 1995, and the Republican Congress afterwards. As Members can see before Republican control of Congress, the Pell grant level remained flat at or around \$2,300, and increased dramatically up to \$4,150 today, with an extra \$1,000 for those who qualify for the Pell Grant Plus Program.

Some say, why just a \$100 increase for students, why not more? Well, for every \$100, it costs the taxpayers \$400 billion to pay for it. We also have the especially large challenge of having the

largest number of high school graduates in history, and it is going up and up and up until the year 2008, and then it will decline.

The third challenge is we face a Pell grant deficit of \$4.3 billion that made these increases hard. President Bush's budget pays that Pell grant deficit off.

The final chart I would like to show is showing the overall Pell grant funding for the past 10 years. As Members can see, in 1996 Pell grants were funded at \$4.9 billion. Under this budget just announced by the President, Pell grants are funded at almost \$18 billion. In other words, we have more than tripled funding for Pell grants over the past 10 years.

Members will also note that the amount we spent last year, \$12.4 billion, has been increased 45 percent to \$18 billion, the largest increase in any domestic program.

As we look to the future, the President's budget indicates that we are going to raise Pell grants by \$500 over a 5-year period, and an additional \$1,000 will be funded through the Pell Grant Plus Act, legislation I filed, and which President Bush's budget fully funds.

Mr. Speaker, Pell grants are truly the passport out of poverty for so many worthy young people. Not only is increasing Pell grants the right thing to do for young people, to help low-income college kids fulfill their American Dream; it is the right thing to do for the Treasury. By investing \$13 billion in Pell grants, it helps generate over \$85 billion a year in additional revenue because the average college graduate makes 75 percent more than the average high school graduate.

Mr. Speaker, I hope our colleagues on both sides of the aisle will understand and appreciate our efforts to increase funding for Pell grants and will vote "yes" on this budget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

REVERSE ROBIN HOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this budget is another example of reverse Robin Hood, robbing